

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

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O YOU WHO BELIEVE...

The Quran is a beautiful book. It is intended for all times, for all peoples, for all situations. We are instructed to read it from cover to cover, to listen when it is recited, to learn from the lessons it contains. I recently noticed that many, many verses begin: “O you who believe...” And many of those verses end with: “that you may succeed.” (for instance, 5:35 and 22:77). That got me to thinking.

What we humans most want to do is succeed. Most people see success as something of this world—money, children, respect, material possessions. These things are fine. But if we want to be included among “O you who believe,” we know that our focus has to be on God—worshiping Him, appreciating His blessings, following His commandments.

In the verses that begin: “O you who believe,” God isn’t talking to the idol worshipers. He’s not talking to the disbelievers. Therefore, these verses contain what we, as would-be believers, need to become more righteous, more God-conscious, more appreciative, and more aware of the dangers of straying off of God’s path.

There are verses that specifically talk about practices of our religion: Charity (2:254, 2:67) and its opposite, usury (2:278, 3:130); fasting (2:183); and prayer and ablution (2:153, 24:58, 5:6, 4:43), including the importance of the Friday prayer: [62:9-10] *O you who believe, when the Congregational Prayer (Salat Al-Jumu'ah) is announced on Friday, you shall hasten to the commemoration of GOD, and drop all business. This is better for you, if you only knew. Once the prayer is completed, you may spread through the land to seek GOD's bounties, and continue to remember GOD frequently, that you may succeed.*

There were verses that cover obeying the laws that God has decreed: equivalence when dealing with crimes (2:178) and when serving as witnesses (4:135, 5:8); not to prohibit what God has made lawful (2:172, 5:87); how to treat each other—not to make fun or conspire secretly, to make room for one another, to be fair in our dealings (24:27, 49:11, 4:29, 58:9 & 11, 33:53)—even the longest verse in the Quran, 2:282, begins “O you who believe.”

If we are to be believers, we must obey God and His messengers: [47:33] *O you who believe, you shall obey GOD, and obey the messenger. Otherwise, all your works will be in vain.*

There are about 20 verses that begin with “O you who believe,” and instruct us to observe God. This is perhaps the most important part of striving to be a believer—coming to understand who God is, to reverence His awesome power, and to be appreciative of Him. (66:8, 33:70, 49:1, 8:24, 9:119, 3:200 and others). [59:18] *O you who believe, you shall reverence GOD, and let every soul examine what it has sent ahead for tomorrow. You shall reverence GOD; GOD is fully Cognizant of everything you do.*

Even more “O you who believe” verses are what I would call warnings. God instructs us of the pitfalls of this world and Satan’s sworn enmity. 24:21 is an example: *O you who believe, do not follow the steps of Satan. Anyone who follows the steps of Satan, should know that he advocates evil and vice. If it*

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were not for GOD's grace towards you, and His mercy, none of you would have been purified. But GOD purifies whomever He wills. GOD is Hearer, Knower.

But we're also warned to be careful about who we chose as friends. Even our family could lead us to hell. Certainly anyone who promotes evil or mocks our religion is a danger: (5:51, 49:6, 9:23, 3:118, 3:149, 4:144, 64:14, 5:57, 60:1) [3:100] *O you who believe, if you obey some of those who received the scripture, they will revert you, after having believed, into disbelievers.*

It's a gift from God to alert us to the potential problems, so we can strive to stay on the right path. Even if they're not actively fighting us, they can be a distraction: [63:9] *O you who believe, do not be distracted by your money and your children from remembering GOD. Those who do this are the losers.* We want to be among those who succeed, not among the losers.

God also warns us not to question and harbor doubt (5:101); to avoid dangerous distractions, like alcohol and gambling, that can lead us away from God (5:90); to be careful of hoarding (9:34), not to betray those who trust us (8:27), to do as we say (61:2-3), and, importantly, not to worry about or judge others: [5:105] *O you who believe, you should worry only about your own necks. If the others go astray, they cannot hurt you, as long as you are guided. To GOD is your ultimate destiny, all of you, then He will inform you of everything you had done.*

"O you who believe" is addressed, God willing, to me. Therefore, I want to pay attention to the words of wisdom contained in those verses; I want to follow those words that I may succeed.

[2:208] *O you who believe, you shall embrace total submission; do not follow the steps of Satan, for he is your most ardent enemy.*

[4:136] *O you who believe, you shall believe in GOD and His messenger, and the scripture He has revealed through His messenger, and the scripture He has revealed before that. Anyone who refuses to believe in GOD, and His angels, and His scriptures, and His messengers, and the Last Day, has indeed strayed far astray.*

[8:24] *O you who believe, you shall respond to GOD and to the messenger when he invites you to what gives you life. You should know that GOD is closer to you than your heart, and that before Him you will be summoned.*

[3:102] *O you who believe, you shall observe GOD as He should be observed, and do not die except as Submitters.*

[47:7] *O you who believe, if you support GOD, He will support you, and strengthen your foothold.*

[5:35] *O you who believe, you shall reverence GOD and seek the ways and means to Him, and strive in His cause, that you may succeed.*

[22:77] *O you who believe, you shall bow, prostrate, worship your Lord, and work righteousness, that you may succeed.*

Lydia

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What Do We Really Have at The End of the Journey?

God Most Gracious made the Quran complete, perfect, and fully detailed [6:38, 114-115; 7:52; 10:37; 12:111; 19:97].

Animals and Birds: Submitting Creatures*

[6:38] **All the creatures on earth, and all the birds that fly with wings, are communities like you. We did not leave anything out of this book.** To their Lord, all these creatures will be summoned.**

*6:38 *Animals were among the creatures who took advantage of God's offer to repent after committing the original sin (see the Introduction).*

**6:38 *All information relevant to our eternal life of the Hereafter is contained in the Quran. The true believers accept, without hesitation, God's assertion: We did not leave anything out of this book. The importance of this statement, and similar statements, is reflected in the fact that each of them consists of 19 Arabic letters (Appendix 19).*

[6:114] **Shall I seek other than GOD as a source of law, when He has revealed to you this book fully detailed?* Those who received the scripture recognize that it has been revealed from your Lord, truthfully. You shall not harbor any doubt.**

*6:113-115 *Upholding any source beside the Quran reflects disbelief in the Quran (Appendix 18).*

[7:52] **We have given them a scripture that is fully detailed, with knowledge, guidance, and mercy for the people who believe.**

[10:37] **This Quran could not possibly be authored by other than GOD. It confirms all previous messages, and provides a fully detailed scripture. It is infallible; for it comes from the Lord of the universe.**

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[19:97] We thus made this (*Quran*) elucidated in your tongue, in order to deliver good news to the righteous, and to warn with it the opponents.

In thinking about the guidance which is the MOST important gift God has given us, I begin, by God's Grace to realize, it's the ONLY important gift. To fully grasp this, I recommend starting with the end, the hour of truth.

What does God tell us will happen?

[17:14] Read your own record. Today, you suffice as your own reckoner.

Each person is to read his/her own record; the book of their life's works.

I, by God's Grace, began to envision our moment of evaluation. The moment where my person is standing before God Almighty, with only a book (record) in "hand," and that's it! Me, a book, before God. No clothes, no bodily garment, no earthly garment of any kind, nothing but a naked spirit, your true naked soul standing there before your Lord. Just pure energy, in front of God Almighty, with only your Salat (and righteous works) to sustain you. This got me to thinking about my book, the one given to God for evaluation and how it relates to the *Quran*.

You see, the *Quran* is our TEXT book, and we are writing our own PERSONAL book in reference to it. Very much like a high school student in math class; you have the text book and your own notes. Your notes may not be as good as the text book, like all people, so you have to constantly refer to the original text to solve the assigned problems and get YOUR NOTES as close as possible to the original.

You try to transfer as much information to your own book, to get as close as possible to the original text; thus you can be living a Quranic life, full of Quranic solutions approved by

God. This way you can solve any life problem using the reference book and in the process find the appropriate solutions to your current dilemma / situation. Thus, the record of your life is always in reference to the TEXT book, the Final Testament which God tells us contains EVERYTHING!

[7:52] We have given them a scripture that is fully detailed, with knowledge, guidance, and mercy for the people who believe.

[10:37] This *Quran* could not possibly be authored by other than GOD. It confirms all previous messages, and provides a fully detailed scripture. It is infallible; for it comes from the Lord of the universe.

The Quran is All We Need

[12:111] In their history, there is a lesson for those who possess intelligence. This is not fabricated Hadith; this (*Quran*) confirms all previous scriptures, provides the details of everything, and is a beacon and mercy for those who believe.

Always remember that we have this book of our own to give God for evaluation, THAT'S IT! Puts things in perspective don't you think. This, God willing, can encourage us to take heed during our practices of worship, because you realize you're writing this deed down in YOUR BOOK.

Imagine, you, on a straight path walking with a book in hand, God Almighty at the end of that path (your destination), and inshAllah (God willing) when you arrive, the book will be full. You'll have nothing else. Just a book to show for the journey... No money, no clothes, no life- accomplishments will matter; only your worship practices will earn you marks.

[7:9] As for those whose weights are light, they will be the ones who lost their souls,* as a consequence of

disregarding our revelations, unjustly.

**7:9 Failing to heed our Creator leads to spiritual starvation and eventual loss of the soul.*

[34:3] Those who disbelieve have said, "The Hour will never come to pass!" Say, "Absolutely—by my Lord—it will most certainly come to you. He is the Knower of the future. Not even the equivalent of an atom's weight is hidden from Him, be it in the heavens or the earth. Not even smaller than that, or larger (is hidden). All are in a profound record."

[18:105] Such are the ones who disbelieved in the revelations of their Lord and in meeting Him. Therefore, their works are in vain; on the Day of Resurrection, they have no weight.

[23:102] As for those whose weights are heavy, they will be the winners.

[23:103] Those whose weights are light are the ones who lost their souls; they abide in Hell forever.

NOW WHAT DO YOU WANT IT TO SAY?!

This is a reality which will happen. God Most Gracious is about WHAT IS, whereas Satan the rejected is about harbouring the blasphemous doubting "What if." So get writing because WHAT IS to happen is the evaluation. Like any term, ours will be up and we'll receive a grade from the Lord. How will your book read?

[103:1-3] By the afternoon. The human being is utterly lost. Except those who believe and lead a righteous life, and exhort one another to uphold the truth, and exhort one another to be steadfast.

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ANECTODE:

INVESTIGATE, EXAMINE, VERIFY

A young housewife was preparing her first Easter dinner. Before she put it into the roasting pan, she took the lovely looking lamb and carefully cut off about two inches from the end and threw it away. Her husband, who was watching this, asked why she cut off the end. She looked startled and said, "I don't know. My mother always did." She was perfectly satisfied with this answer, but her husband wasn't. Next time he saw her mother, he asked her why she cut off two inches from the lamb before cooking it. She thought a moment and said, "I don't know. My mother always did."

A few weeks later they visited Grandma. Still trying to understand, he explained what his wife had done and asked her why. Grandma laughed, "I always did it because it wouldn't fit in my roasting pan otherwise."

How many people follow blindly what they've seen or been told without investigating? The wasting of a couple of inches of meat is nothing compared to the loss of our soul. God gave us the hearing, the eyes and the brains and we are responsible for using them.

[39:18] *They are the ones who exam-*

ine all words, then follow the best. These are the ones whom GOD has guided; these are the ones who possess intelligence.

[17:36] *You shall not accept any information, unless you verify it for yourself. I have given you the hearing, the eyesight, and the brain, and you are responsible for using them.*

*Anonymous,
Submitted by Lydia
with verses from the Quran*

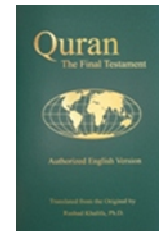
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God

[2:255] *GOD: there is no other god besides Him, the Living, the Eternal. Never a moment of unawareness or slumber overtakes Him. To Him belongs everything in the heavens and everything on earth. Who could intercede with Him, except in accordance with His will? He knows their past, and their future. No one attains any knowledge, except as He wills. His dominion encompasses the heavens and the earth, and ruling them never burdens Him. He is the Most High, the Great.*

[6:102] *Such is GOD your Lord, there is no god except He, the Creator of all things. You shall worship Him alone. He is in control of all things.*

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